## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 12 of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

A pair of degenerate primers~~, GGN TTY AAYAGCN TWY GGN GG (upstream primer) (SEQ ID NO. 3) and CYT TNG CNG AYT GYT GYT TRT T (downstream primer) (SEQ ID NO. 4)~~ was designed from published HL sequences of several plants and synthesized. Total RNA was isolated from watermelon leaf tissues using the trizol® reagent (Life Technologies) and the protocol suggested by the manufacturer. RT-PCR was conducted using the total RNA as template and a RT-PCR band of ~500 base pairs, which is the expected size for a HL protein was obtained. The RT-PCR product was partially sequenced, demonstrating that the RT-PCR product contained a portion of the coding region of watermewlon HL. ~~The RT-PCR product was partially sequenced, demonstrating that the RT-PCR product contained a portion of the coding region of watermelon HL.~~

Please replace the second paragraph on page 12 continuing onto page 13, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Sequencing of the full length cDNA was accomplished using Clontech's SMART RACE kit. Two primers were designed from the partial sequence obtained:

Forward primer: CCG GCT CCG GTC TGA CAT TCG AGT CGG (SEQ ID NO.3~~5~~)

Reverse primer: GCT CGC TCG GTA GTC CCG TCT GCG GCC CG (SEQ ID NO. 4~~6~~)

With these gene-specific primers and primers supplied by the kit, the sequence of the coding region of the watermelon HL was obtained.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 13 of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

From the sequence obtained, the following primer pair was designed for cloning the full length cDNA of watermelon HL:

5'-end primer: CGC ACT AGT ATG AAG GTC ACC ATG ACC TC (SEQ ID NO.5)

3'-end primer: GGT AAG CTT CAG TTG GTC CTT TGA AAA GC (SEQ ID NO.6)

The 5'-end primer was designed to contain the SpeI-recognition site just before the start codon, while the 3'-end primer contained the HindIII recognition site just after the stop codon. The PCR product obtained using this primer pair was ligated into cloning vector pGEM-T Easy (Promega) by TA ligation.

Please insert after page 15, but before the claims, the attached paper Sequence Listing in the specification.

Attachments: Sequence Listing (paper copy)
Sequence Listing (computer readable disk copy)